

POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS BULLETIN

THE CLINICAL CENTER

Medical Administrative Series

M92-18 (rev.)

21 October 1997

MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

SUBJECT: Smoking in the Clinical Center

1. Explanation of Material Transmitted: This issuance transmits the policy of the Medical Executive Committee regarding smoking in the Clinical Center. The policy was approved by the Medical Board at its meeting on 7 October 1992. The policy was reviewed by the Medical Executive Committee on 21 October 1997 and approved with changes.
2. Material Superseded: MAS No. M92-18, dated 1 November 1992
3. Filing Instructions: "Other" Section

Remove: No. M92-18, dated 1 November 1992

Insert: No. M92-18 (rev.), dated 21 October 1997

DISTRIBUTION

Physicians, Dentists and Other Practitioners Participating in Patient Care

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SUBJECT: Smoking in the Clinical Center

PURPOSE

This document sets forth the policy of the Clinical Center regarding smoking by patients, staff, and visitors.

POLICY

Smoking of tobacco in any form by NIH employees, visitors and patients in the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center complex is prohibited.

CONSIDERATIONS

According to reports issued in 1986 by the Surgeon General and the National Academy of Sciences, environmental tobacco smoke is a cause of disease in both smokers and healthy nonsmokers. The 1986 reports also conclude that physical separation of smokers and non-smokers in a common air space, such as different rooms within the same building, may reduce -- but will not eliminate -- nonsmokers' exposure to tobacco smoke. Effective 1 September 1987, smoking has been prohibited in all NIH buildings.

Data from the National Fire Protection Association show that 75 percent of fire fatalities in health care institutions occur among patients using smoking materials compared with patient fatalities resulting from all other known causes of fires. Therefore, restriction

of smoking is needed to reduce both secondary exposures to tobacco smoke and the risk of fire.

All patient care units became no smoking areas in 1994.

PROCEDURE

Smoking is banned both inside and in the immediate vicinity of the Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center complex. Smoking is prohibited on the sun deck at the CC's library entrance, around all entrances and in the parking garage and stairwells.